

# USDA/Rural Development

Bismarck, North Dakota

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **President Bush Proclaims October 6-12 As Fire Prevention Week**

**BISMARCK**, October 10, 2002--On October 4, 2002, President George W. Bush signed a proclamation proclaiming October 6 through October 12, 2002, as Fire Prevention Week.

Every year fires needlessly destroy lives, homes, natural habitat and livelihoods. Approximately 85 percent of fire fatalities occur in the home. As we observe Fire Prevention Week, citizens are asked to take responsible steps to prevent fires at home and outdoors.

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development plays an important role in providing rural communities with emergency and safety resources, through its Community Facilities grant and loan program," said Clare Carlson state director for Rural Development. "With lower populations and tax basis, rural areas rely on programs such as Rural Development's Community Facilities loan and grant program to maintain safe environments and to enhance the quality of life for all rural residents."

#### **Communities that have benefited from these programs include:**

<b><u>Area</u></b>	<b><u>Grant</u></b>	<b><u>Loan</u></b>	<b><u>Purpose</u></b>
Upham Fire Protection District	\$99,000	\$13,000	Fire Hall
Sentinel Butte Fire Protection District	Economic Impact Grant		
	\$13,750		Fire Hall Addition
	Economic Impact Grant		
Amidon Fire Protection District	\$37,400		2 Fire Trucks
	\$36,000		Fire Truck
Greater Carson Rural Fire Protection District	\$11,638		Fire Truck
Leeds Heavy Rescue Company, Inc.	\$24,000	\$31,000	Fire & Rescue Truck

The proclamation can be viewed at the following link: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/proclamations/>

In Fiscal Year 2001, USDA Rural Development provided over \$58 million in loan and grant financing in North Dakota.

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead federal entity for rural development needs, and administers program assistance through three agencies: Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, and Rural Utilities Service. Further information on USDA Rural Development can be obtained by contacting any USDA Service Center or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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